

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19686

In 2009 the Idaho Legislature passed legislation (House Bill 241) that altered the operating parameters of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) allowing them to operate on roads with speed limits of up to 35 miles per hour (mph). Many NEV's have a maximum speed of only 25 mph resulting in a law that allows slow moving electric vehicles to operate on roads with much higher speed limits. This creates a safety hazard. In order to correct this problem, a new vehicle definition is created for Medium Speed Electric Vehicles (MSEV). These vehicles have a maximum speed of 35 mph, meet the requirements in federal code for a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV), and state requirements for title, registration, and insurance. In addition, MSEV's are required to be equipped with a crushproof body design or a roll cage. MSEV's are only allowed to travel on roads with a speed limit of up to 35 mph, and are allowed to cross roads with a speed limit of up to 45 mph. In order to for Idaho code to comply with the current federal definition, the NEV is renamed a LSV. The LSV is required to meet state code for titling, registration, and insurance. To ensure safety, LSV's are allowed to travel on roads with a speed limit of up to 25 mph, and may cross a road with a speed limit of up to 35 mph. These are the same operational limits in place for NEV's prior to the 2009 change. Some technical corrections are also included.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact to the General Fund.

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